

# Mono County Local Transportation Commission

PO Box 347  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
760.924.1800 phone, 924.1801 fax  
[commdev@mono.ca.gov](mailto:commdev@mono.ca.gov)

PO Box 8  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
760.932.5420 phone, 932.5431 fax  
[www.monocounty.ca.gov](http://www.monocounty.ca.gov)

## MINUTES

February 9, 2015  
(Adopted March 9, 2015)

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Larry Johnston, Lynda Salcido for Fred Stump. **ABSENT:** Tim Fesko

**TOWN COMMISSIONERS:** Jo Bacon, John Wentworth for Sandy Hogan, Shields Richardson

**COUNTY STAFF:** Scott Burns, Gerry Le Francois, Garrett Higerd, Megan Mahaffey, Nate Greenberg, C.D. Ritter

**TOWN STAFF:** Grady Dutton

**CALTRANS:** Ryan Dermody, Dave Bloom, Brandon Fitt

**ESTA:** John Helm

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Jo Bacon called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Village Mall, Mammoth Lakes, and attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Lynda Salcido gave an update on Round Fire at Swall Meadows. Commissioner Stump spent all weekend on fighting and recovery at fire, leading contingent on structure protection. Meeting Saturday evening was attended by 200 residents. Cal Fire was staging out of its Round Valley headquarters. Result: 39 homes completely destroyed, unsafe to enter, live fires in trees, houses still smoldering, propane tanks venting. No power, and water is a concern. Friday sheriff's car at 10 p.m. ordered everyone out, Swall engulfed in firestorm. Volunteer fighters were toughest Stump had seen, especially Wheeler Crest. Red Cross at community center helped with recovery, finding housing. People at work couldn't get into homes. Animal, medical, and emergency issues arose. Cast-Off items free, donations collected at Tri-County Fairgrounds. Communication still down, Verizon dead in water. Only landlines were working.
- 3. MINUTES:** Continue minutes of Jan. 12, 2015, to March 9 meeting for approval by attendees.
- 4. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR:** Commissioner Fred Stump was elected chair, and Shields Richardson vice-chair. Commissioner Hogan had opted out of consideration for vice-chair, as she's not an elected official.
- 5. CHP INTRODUCTION:** Lt. Jeff Holt, introduced and welcomed as the new CHP area commander, indicated he's happy to be in area, from Truckee. Commissioner Johnston thanked Holt for help with fires. VanDyke fire: Winds, 395 closed at Topaz Lane near cottonwoods. Power lines down in Walker, closed SR 182 to Lee Vining. Burned 300 acres, lost travel trailer by old Fargo station in Bridgeport. Burned along ridge and East Walker meadow. Power still out to 400+ homes, land lines down. Rockslide on blind corner blocked southbound lane; Caltrans pushed boulder off to side.
- 6. ADMINISTRATION**
  - A. Overall Work Program (OWP) amendment 2014-15:** Megan Mahaffey distributed budget information. Third-quarter adjustment may be needed. Scott Burns: Two categories: RPA is use or lose, second column can spill over to next year. Johnston: \$5,000 on regional trails? Burns: Gerry Le Francois went with Antelope Valley RPAC on potential trail staging areas, alignments. Explored use of County property acquired after 1997 flood. Le Francois: Find way to access parcels from N. River Lane. Toiyabe Health Services is on private property, where many Native Americans live. Looking to get people more

active. Leverage those two items. Toiyabe got huge three-year grant. Bill Van Lente, now clinic manager, brought up at RPAC meeting.

**MOTION:** Adopt Amendment 01 - Budget Adjustment to incorporate an additional \$100,000 into the Work Element for ESTA to update the Inyo-Mono Counties Short-Range Transit Plan, other internal adjustments to Work Elements, and authorize signature of the OWP Budget Adjustment by the executive director. (*Richardson/Johnston. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Fesko.*)

**B. Draft OWP 2015-16:** Scott Burns indicated adoption by May, to headquarters by June. Ideas for project study reports, a major work item due to upcoming STIP estimate in June. Submit to CTC later this year, or early next. RTP should wind up, GHG analysis with Town, mobility elements. Wentworth has ongoing interest. County roads are important work item, plus Wi-Fi hotspots for people to pull over. Alternate fueling discussed over last year, statewide priority, complement at local level. Emergency access routes need formalizing like Mono City. Work with Town on draft to submit to Caltrans. Wentworth: Inyo Supervisors on adventure trails. Grady Dutton: Haislip Hayes is working with Burns on item. Bacon: Total funding capacity. Bring back next month? Burns: Get ongoing feedback prior to May adoption. Wentworth: Keep in mind high-level opportunity. Burns: Interregional transportation planning. ECTPP meeting soon to discuss upcoming STIP and YARTS. Money set aside for project study reports, but not identified earlier.

7. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** **Salcido:** Facebook and Twitter were huge with fire information. **Johnston:** Mono Supervisors are to adopt emergency declaration tomorrow on fires; sheriff has already. **Richardson:** Fire was wake-up call on disaster preparedness, communication was out. Need comprehensive plan. **Wentworth:** Fire update needed.

## 8. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

**A. Communication policy:** Nate Greenberg, information technology director, noted community infrastructure is timely. Ironically, sitting in meeting with sheriff, police, fire staff on need for solving shadow areas within radio community. Bridgeport power was down. Moving toward redundant power, but not done yet. Two main fire areas -- internal community network, and connection to outside. Verizon cell system went down, and DSL north of Round Valley. North, everything worked flawlessly. Splice Verizon into Digital 395 route by late Monday. Resource incredibly valuable. Within six hours Digital 395 put up phone trunk. Need to better understand resource, adapt and adopt. Policies are based on critical infrastructure, power or water.

Within Mono, increased connectivity among 30 sites (6 megabits to 200, cost cut in half). Agency connectivity will improve as agencies connect to network. Conversation on need for broadband is cyclical, from movies to online classes. Accessibility is written into language with free public WiFi. Nine miles of fiber-optic up in smoke. Underground requires permitting partnerships. Chalfant project funded by CPUC, as no way to pay for conduit. Balance with deploying infrastructure is moving ahead, leveraging existing resources. Some agencies not connected to Digital 395. Long-term sustainability relies on subscribers.

Think about regional identity, with signage to get info by mobile phone. Richardson: Underground vs. overhead? Greenberg: 10:1 cost-wise, but rock boring costs more than trenching. Last mile to ML? Wentworth: Infrastructure ongoing, leverage existing to move forward. Greenberg: SuddenLink saw value, but Verizon with a bit of monopoly thought it had higher-value asset; not want pay for something it had itself. Leveraging to Digital 395 is important. "Fiber is always king."

Johnston: Issues revolve around fires that may have been started by overhead facilities that were destroyed. BOS is trying to get utilities underground. More convinced than ever about issues on overhead, falling on people. Mono policies heading in that direction. Diversifying economic base is needed. No snow, so dependent on outside forces. More diverse, outward-connected businesses with Digital 395. LTC Commissioner Hap Hazard pushed it four to five years ago. Does this belong in LTC document? Burns: RTP serves as Circulation Element. State requires infrastructure aspect. Appendix to RTP. Wentworth: Digital 395 does not really have a home. Rapidly changing, overwhelming opportunities. Greenberg: Drive home undergrounding aspect. Need funding mechanism to put conduit under road. Richardson: Live in region of extreme weather, always an issue. Bacon: Town has undergrounded since incorporation (1984). Johnston: Opportune time to think about overall assessment district that applies to everyone in Mono, put money into undergrounding resources. Have funding sources for conduit when building roads. Burns: LAFCO prospect. County Service Areas could get involved. Wentworth: Look beyond undergrounding. Town is interested in adopting policies. Pirate off this? Greenberg: Tweaks with plagiarized. Mention at Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG). Wentworth: Tahoe Basin on cellular towers? Greenberg:

Constraints greater than on east side. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency worked with local agencies to develop comprehensive basin community plan, strategically siting new towers, not just ad hoc. Wentworth: Federal Communications Commission talks about Internet as utility. Look at it that way here? Burns: Will incorporate by reference in General Plan.

**B. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):** Gerry Le Francois will keep RTP on agenda through late spring. Commissioners Bacon and Hogan provided extensive, helpful comments. Active Transportation Program is set to expire in spring. Emphasis is on fix it first.

P. 112: New Obj. 3.2. Preventive maintenance, interim measures, extending life of facility instead of full road rehabilitation. March 2015 CTC will have fund estimate for 2016 STIP.

P. 123: Level of service needs. Miles traveled, or how long it takes? Want people moving slowly through towns. Section is moving away from vehicles.

P. 163-164: RPACs provided input. Sierra Paradise now has policy section, but not yet reviewed by community. Town's draft Mobility Element: Some commissions and committees have changed. Financial Element: Projects with funding, some unknown.

P. 229-230: Unconstrained project list. Keep adding project ideas.

Next month: Trip generation (Average Daily Trips, ADT) from Census on current residences and vacant land in Mono. Formerly single-family home generated seven trips/day; reduce to three to four. Johnston: Highest annual average ADT occurs at Old Mammoth Road/SR 203. Document mentions paving Bodie Road, but hot-button issues are not yet resolved. Full constituency says don't pave. Unless separate EIR is prepared, not ready to put into LTC as project. Bridgeport policies: Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) idea came from RPAC, not out for full public view. Other RPACs don't have that. Le Francois: Will verify if SR 270 has existing language. Dermody: Some routes placed back into county jurisdiction. Johnston: State Parks funding ability is an issue.

## 9. TRANSIT

### A. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA)

**1. Low-Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP):** John Helm noted LCTOP is in its first year; money forthcoming. Expand Mammoth Express with new funds, taking cars off road between Bishop and Mammoth, reducing greenhouse gas. Mono, ESTA, and Inyo get funds. Mono LTC will be lead on project (Helm had volunteered, but required to be a County). All three funding sources will be pooled to fund additional service. Cost: \$26,000, with fare revenue providing balance of funding.

Add early route from Bishop at 6:50, existing 5:20 departure. Add evening run at 7 p.m., with stops at Crowley. Demand exists from Crowley or Tom's Place for later departure. Salcido: County employees struggle getting from Bishop to work in Mammoth. Johnston, who repeatedly has brought up the matter of no bus to get people to work on time in Mammoth, issued congratulations up front for this.

**MOTION:** Approve Resolution R15-01 allocating funds for expansion of Mammoth Express fixed-route service & authorize LTC & ESTA's executive directors to complete & execute all documents for program submittal, allocation requests & required reporting. (*Johnston/Salcido. Ayes: 5-0. Absent: Fesko.*)

**2. ESTA activities:** Upcoming biannual transit workshop on summer plans. Bacon: Reduce transit lines at mountain? *Status quo at this point. Yellow Line will run through Presidents Day.*

**B. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS):** Scott Burns announced new YARTS website and asked commissioners to view and critique. Supervisor Stacy Corless will represent Mono at orientation meeting Feb. 12 for seven of 10 new YARTS members. Next YARTS meeting: March 2.

## 10. CALTRANS

**A. Wildlife/vehicle collisions:** Ryan Dermody requested continuance to next meeting due to Stump and Fesko absence.

**B. Activities in Mono County & pertinent statewide information:** Ryan Dermody noted trees down in Antelope Valley area, asked District 10 to help remove branches (Salcido: Flying cottonwood branches risked lives at Topaz). Despite closure, 395 is open now. Permanent district director, soon to be

appointed, will attend LTC meeting next month. Trucks on 108: Mono Supervisors agreed to concept, looking at ordinance, many steps. Change signage from “not recommended” to “prohibited.”

11. **INFORMATIONAL**
  - A. **MAP-21 letter to Congressional delegation**
  - B. **Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan 2.0**
  - C. **ESTA second-quarter 2014-15 operating statistics**
  - D. **Yosemite fee increases:** Confusion about entry rate – higher in peak season.
  - E. **Lake George Road letter**
  - F. **Sage grouse**
12. **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Wildlife collisions; 2) Caltrans director; 3) minutes of Jan. 12, 2015; 4) OWP; 5) RTP.
13. **ADJOURN** at 10:49 a.m. to March 9, 2015.

*Prepared by C.D. Ritter, LTC secretary*